

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY

East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC

Finow Airfield

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 25 February 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Finow airfield between 25 January and 2 February 1954:

25 January. Between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s made local individual flights and formation flights. Visibility was good. After 6 p.m., night flying was practiced by individual swept-back jet aircraft.

26 January. There was air activity by individual aircraft and formations in squadron wedges. There was clear weather and a temperature of about 18 centigrades below zero.

27 to 30 January. Throughout the day, there was the same air activity as on the preceding days. Swept-back jet aircraft towing sleeve targets were repeatedly observed aloft. However, no firing at the towed air sleeves was observed over Finow or in its vicinity. Every night, flying was practiced.

31 January. There was no air activity.

1 February. There was air activity throughout the day. While 2 swept-back jet aircraft were observed aloft, 4 alert MiG-15s, 4 MiG-15s at the take-off point and 40 MiG-15 or U-MiG-15s were counted on the northern edge of the field, and an additional 10 to 12 aircraft were estimated to be there. Diving attacks were made on the field at an angle of about 40 degrees.

2 February. During daytime, local individual flights were made and, after nightfall, night flying was practiced. One swept-back jet aircraft repeatedly flew in the beams of a searchlight but no attacks or firing practices were made on this illuminated aircraft.¹

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[redacted] Soviet flight officers would be transferred to Brandenburg. No information was available as to the date of transfer or whether individual officers or a closed unit would be concerned.²

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1. [redacted] Comment. Training in formation flying was also intensive at other airfields of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army, such as Neuruppin and Merseburg, during the period under review. Individual training at Finow airfield indicates that young pilots are being trained in operational aircraft. Attacks on towed

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sleeve targets were probably made only by camera guns instead of with live ammunition.

- 25X1 2. Comment. No information has thus far been received on any intended transfer of a fighter regiment from Finow to Brandenburg. Such a transfer could only be made to Brandenburg-Briest airfield which, at the end of May 1953, was vacated by the fighter regiment now stationed in Jueterbog. At that time, it was believed that the evacuation was connected with negotiations on an expanded east-west air corridor to Berlin.

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